



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ responds to well fire in northwest Louisiana

BATON ROUGE – A well blowout in northern Louisiana on Dec. 23 made the holidays more challenging for 25 families that had to be evacuated. The blowout and ensuing fire took place in the 400 block of Stonewall Frierson Road about 1.5 miles north of Frierson. Homes within a one-quarter mile radius were evacuated from Dec. 23 until Jan. 5 when the fire was extinguished, the well was capped and the flow diverted to another nearby production line. The evacuation was increased to all homes within a one-half mile radius on Dec. 31.

DEQ Northwest regional office surveillance staff responded immediately and remained on the scene air monitoring until the incident was wrapped up.

“While the fire was burning there was no offsite impact,” said Otis Randle, Northwest Regional Manager. “DEQ monitored the evacuated homes and when the evacuation was called-off, DEQ checked each home to be sure it was safe for the residents to return.” DEQ staff checked the homes for safety during the evacuation so that residents could come back for a short time in the evenings to get personal items and feed pets.

DEQ staff monitored the air daily ensure there was no offsite impact. On Jan. 1, Cudd Well Control of Houston tried to extinguish the fire and cap the well. At that time, DEQ monitors picked up some low level volatile organic compounds offsite and the fire was reignited until the flow could be diverted. The fire was put out on Jan. 5.

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